

A further specimen of the White-fronted Swift *Cypseloides storeri*

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Received 8 November 2001

Since the description of the White-fronted Swift *Cypseloides storeri* (Navarro *et al.* 1992), its systematic position (Howell 1992, 1993, Sibley & Monroe 1993, AOU 1994, Peterson & Navarro 1993) and seasonal status (Howell & Webb 1995) have been questioned. Howell (1992, 1993) argued that given the very small series available, and the kind of multivariate analyses used by Navarro *et al.* (1992) for describing this new taxon, accepting it as a full species is "premature." Howell & Webb (1995) further asserted that until new information is available, even its breeding in Mexico is questionable. Chantler (1998) responded recently that the lack of available information argues strongly against its status as a resident.

In a recent visit to the collections of the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas, Instituto Politécnico Nacional (ENCB), México City, a misidentified swift was discovered among several Black Swifts *Cypseloides niger*. The bird (ENCB 2827), a male, was collected 4.5 km N, 2 km W of Juanacatlán, Jalisco, Mexico (approx. 103° 40' N, 20° 3' W, elevation 2,360 m), southwest of Laguna Zacoalco. This locality lies c. 86 km northeast of the northernmost known record of the species (Navarro *et al.* 1993; Fig. 1) at Las Joyas Scientific Station, Jalisco. The bird was collected on 10 June 1990 by Martín Aguilar, in a mist net placed over a creek, surrounded by semiarid vegetation, and prepared as a study skin by G. Ibáñez-Hernández. The bird had no fat and was not moulting. Most importantly, its testes were enlarged (7 x 4 mm). Measurements (mm) of the dried skin are: wing chord 139.9, tail 46.5, and tarsus 16.4. The other known specimens of *C. storeri* were collected on 2 September (holotype, MZFC 3535, Guerrero, testes 3.4 x 1.5), 10-11 July (UMSNH 1265-1267), and between June and September (LNLJ uncatalogued; Navarro *et al.* 1993).

With these records, the seasonal occurrence of this species in Mexico is confirmed from at least June to September. The breeding condition of the ENCB specimen indicates that the species' status as a breeding bird, associated with deep canyons and waterfalls in the mountains of southwestern Mexico, is indeed correct (Navarro *et al.* 1992, 1993). The species has been listed as potentially threatened (Collar *et al.* 1992) and its areas of occurrence as priorities for conservation (Wege & Long 1995); its status as "data deficient" (BirdLife International 2000) should be retained, and the search for more data concerning life history of the species should be encouraged. Concerns about the validity of the species (Howell 1992, 1993, Howell & Webb 1995) now seem unfounded: the defining characters have been confirmed by two

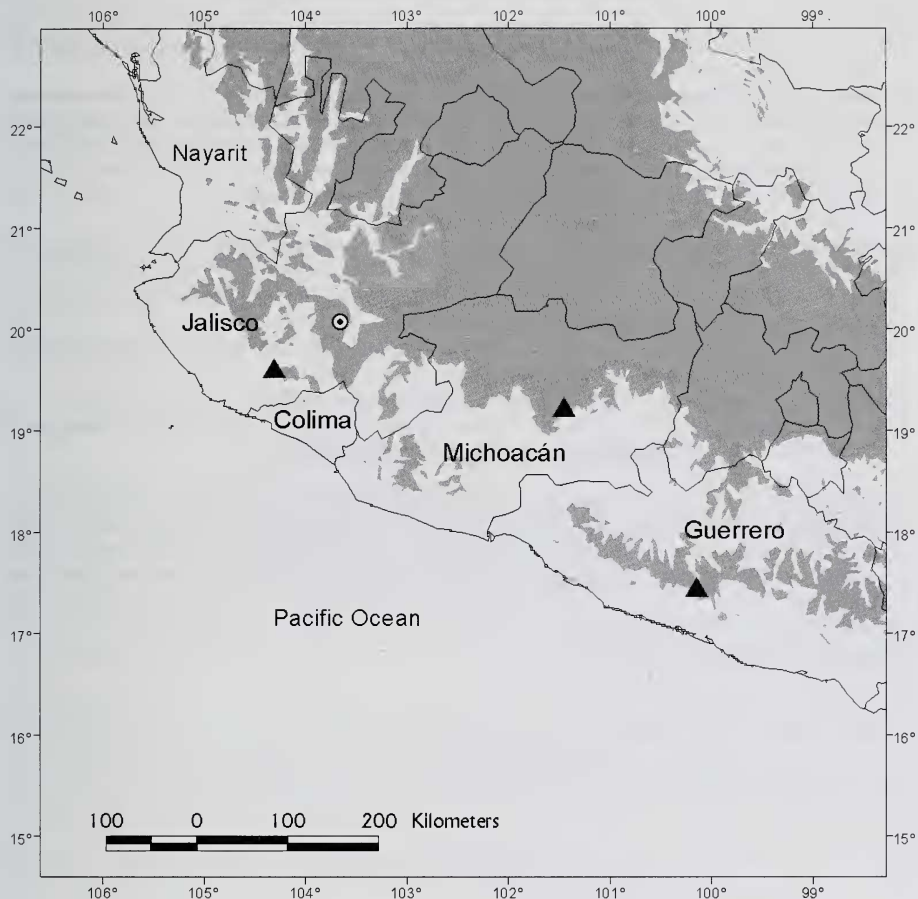


Figure 1. Map of specimen localities of the White-fronted Swift over a topographic map of southern Mexico depicting elevations higher than 1,250 m. Triangles indicate published records, dotted circle indicates the new locality reported in this contribution.

additional specimens since the original description of the species, and it now appears to be a breeding species in southwestern Mexico.

Acknowledgments

We appreciate the help of the late Dr. Ticul Álvarez for access to the ENCB bird collection. Valuable comments on the manuscript were provided by Charles Collins, Chris Feare, Fanny Rebón and Octavio Rojas.

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